

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

ACDA-10 FEA-01 NRC-07 OES-06 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01

AGR-10 /120 W

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R 161708Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9941

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

UNCLAS PARIS 11307

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR NZ FR

SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO FRANCE

1. THE FOLLOWING IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE DESPATCH ON VISIT OF NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER MULDOON. VISIT CONTINUES, AND EMBASSY HOPES TO HAVE FULL DETAILS NEXT WEEK.

2. BEGIN AFP STORY: THREE PRINCIPAL PROBLEMS WERE DISCUSSED DURING POLITICAL CONVERSATIONS THURSDAY EVENING (APRIL 15) BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTERS OF FRANCE AND NEW ZEALAND: THE FRENCH PRESENCE IN THE PACIFIC, FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING, AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN NEW ZEALAND AND FRANCE AND WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES.

THE CONVERSATIONS TOOK PLACE BEFORE AND AFTER THE DINNER WHICH PRIME MINISTER CHIRAC OFFERED IN HONOR OF HIS NEW ZEALAND COLLEAGUE ROBERT-DAVID MULDOON. BEFORE THE DINNER, THE CONVERSATION WAS TETE-A-TETE. AFTER THE DINNER, THE CONVERSATION WAS ENLARGED TO INCLUDE ADVIS-
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ERS ON BOTH SIDES. INFORMED FRENCH SOURCES PROVIDED THE

FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION ABOUT THE CONVERSATIONS:

FRENCH PRESENCE IN THE PACIFIC: THERE IS EXCELLENT COOPERATION BETWEEN FRANCE AND NEW ZEALAND WITHIN THE SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION. BOTH COUNTRIES ARE WESTERN DEMOCRACIES, AND SHARE COMMON VIEWS ON A NUMBER OF PROBLEMS. MR. MULDOON REAFFIRMED NEW ZEALAND'S MEMBERSHIP IN THE WESTERN WORLD, AND AT THE SAME TIME HER MEMBERSHIP IN THE PACIFIC COMMUNITY. ON THE FRENCH SIDE, THERE IS APPRECIATION FOR NEW ZEALAND'S ROLE AS A MODERATOR WITH RESPECT TO FIJI, WHICH IS HOSTILE TO THE FRENCH PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

NUCLEAR TESTING: MR. MULDOON RAISED THE SUBJECT BUT WITHOUT PRESSING TOO HARD. MR. CHIRAC EXPLAINED THE REASONS FOR THE TESTING. IN ORDER TO HAVE AN INDEPENDENT POLICY, FRANCE MUST HAVE AN INDEPENDENT DEFENSE, AND FRANCE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO BUILD ITS NUCLEAR ARSENAL THROUGH ITS OWN MEANS. THERE IS NO UNHEALTHY IMPACT ON THE POPULATIONS OF THE AREA. MR. MULDOON WAS IN AGREEMENT WITH THAT.

BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS: ONLY 25 PERCENT OF FRANCE'S IMPORTS FROM NEW ZEALAND ARE COVERED BY FRENCH EXPORTS. MR. CHIRAC COMPLAINED ABOUT DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES WHICH FAVOR BRITISH IMPORTS TO NEW ZEALAND AND CREATE OBSTACLES TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF TRADE WITH FRANCE.

AS FAR AS EUROPE IS CONCERNED, MR. MULDOON ASKED FOR FRANCE'S HELP IN FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF SALES OF NEW ZEALAND DAIRY PRODUCTS IN GREAT BRITAIN. MR. CHIRAC RESPONDED THAT FRANCE UNDERSTANDS NEW ZEALANDS POSITION, BUT MUST TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE INTERESTS OF FRENCH AND EUROPEAN PRODUCERS. BOTH PRIME MINISTERS HOPE THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS CURRENTLY TAKING PLACE IN BRUSSELS WILL HAVE SATISFACTORY RESULTS. END AFP STORY.

3. COMMENT: FOREGOING IS A GOF BACKGROUNDER. IT IS NOT A COMMUNIQUE, NOR DOES IT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THE UNCLASSIFIED

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NEW ZEALAND DELEGATION'S VIEW OF THE TALKS.
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